



United States Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management
3028 E Main St
Cañon City, Colorado 81212



In Reply Refer to:
1610
(CO200)

February 11, 2008

Dear South Park Land Tenure Adjustment Planning Participant:

The BLM Royal Gorge Field Office (RGFO) is holding a public meeting to present the results of the South Park Land Tenure Adjustment Environmental Assessment at the fair barn in Fairplay, Colorado on February 27, 2008 from 6pm-8pm. The Fair Barn is located at 880 Bogue St. Fairplay, Colorado 80440. Representatives from BLM will be on hand to answer questions and accept written comments. The environmental assessment will open for a 30-day public comment period on February 27, 2008.

The environmental assessment (EA) evaluates the impacts to the human environment of a proposed amendment to the BLM Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan (RMP, 1996) concerning long-term public land ownership in South Park, Park County, CO. The EA was completed for planning purposes and compares four alternatives of retention, exchange, and disposal of BLM parcels in the study area. Under all action alternatives the agency would increase the amount of BLM lands for retention, ensure the protection of important resource values on lands available for exchange, and maintain flexibility to dispose of small isolated parcels, particularly those with limited public access.

The EA does not consider any specific exchange or disposal of public lands but instead reviews impacts of the current plan (No Action) and four land tenure alternatives from a landscape perspective. Specifically, the EA responds to public requests for BLM to retain more BLM-administered lands in public ownership in South Park based on new biological, cultural, and land-use information gained since completion of the RMP in 1996.

RGFO staff will present results of the EA including a discussion of the proposed action (Alternative D). Alternative D was generated as a result of public comments expressed at the last round of public meetings in 2006 and 2007. BLM's proposed action would increase long-term retention of BLM public lands in South Park by 51%, reduce lands available for exchange by 38% and reduce lands available for disposal by 13%.

BLM will launch a 30-day public comment period for the South Park Land Tenure Adjustment Environmental Assessment beginning on February 27, 2008.

Sincerely,

Roy L. Masinton
Field Manager
Royal Gorge Field Office

Enclosure:

cc: Attached Mailing List